

THE  
**FUTURE  
OF  
AMERICA'S  
NATIONAL  
PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Guadalupe Mountains National Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** GUMO

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

The Guadalupe Mountains are a globally unique geologic resource that is intertwined with a rich and diverse history of human interaction. The wilderness and adjacent wildlands offer phenomenal opportunities for scientific study, a unique visitor experience, and educational prospects that are consistent with resource preservation, ecosystem management, and the park's rugged character.

Geologists from around the world travel to this isolated terminus of the world's most extensive and well-exposed fossil reef. This internationally designated benchmark highlights the world's best example of Middle Permian geology. In addition to this international benchmark, exposed depositional layers, playas, salt lake shorelines, and aeolian dunes invite the most inquisitive earth scientists.

Rising thousands of feet above the desert floor, the park offers stark contrasts between mountains and desert, and overwhelming vistas stretching as far as the eye can see. The interfacing of the Chihuahuan Desert, Rocky Mountain, and Great Plains flora and fauna has been isolated in this unique environmental time capsule. The Guadalupe's contain relict and endemic montane, canyon, and aquatic species engaged in the delicate balance of survival which is only complicated by the diversity of physical geography and climate.

The story of survival continues through the unfolding pages of time. The continuous association of people and their adaptations to a dynamic environment characterize the story of human survival in the Guadalupe. Although the physical evidence of human occupation in the Guadalupe has waned, it is survived by the spiritual connections that remain alive and vibrant today.

The Centennial vision for Guadalupe will be to foster advocacy among those who are touched by her rugged beauty...to inspire a sense of awe in those who see her rich diversity...to motivate and increase capacity in a staff that is passionate and caring...to provide a sanctuary for those longing of wild places...to broker opportunities for sharing, learning and growing...to tell the stories...and to provide hope for future generations seeking an untrammelled America.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

John V. Lujan, Park Superintendent



Site: GUMO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ **Improve the condition of park resources and assets.**

☒ **Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.**

Guadalupe Mountains National Park has an inventory of 34 historic structures. In addition to maintaining several of the structures in good condition, we will continue to document, research and update our existing knowledge of these structures.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ **Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.**

Although one exotic has been removed from the park, 50 other exotic non-native plants remain in the park. Of these, five invasives are currently being targeted for removal. We intend, in cooperation with the state highway department, to eliminate these species from all road corridors.

We will continue our efforts to work with partners to reintroduce the desert big horn sheep and the black-footed prairie dog to the park environs.

As possible, fire will be introduced to the landscape.

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☒ **Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.**

In addition to our historic structures, Guadalupe Mountains has 54 non-historic buildings with an FCI of 0.14 and/or lower. The buildings and structures will continue to be maintained in there existing condition. As a part of the Centennial Initiative, we will seek a mechanism for the assessment of condition and corrective strategy for those assets over 0.14.

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☒ **Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.**

The maintenance, development, and expansion of our natural resource databases continues to be a focus for resources management and the Inventory and Monitoring Network. Critical information on resources such as geologic resources, caves, springs and seeps, vegetation, wildlife observations, natural resource bibliographies, abandoned roads, and wildland fire occurrences is urgently needed for the effective and efficient operation of the park. We will look for opportunities to continue our understanding of the natural realm of Guadalupe and the application of that knowledge to the

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STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

holistic management of the park.

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☒ Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Guadalupe Mountains NP has identified 10 potential landscapes for inventory and evaluation. They include Pratt Cabin, Williams Ranch, Hunter Line Shack, the Bowl Cabin, the Butterfield Stage Route/Emigrant Trail, the Pine Springs Cafesite, the Dog Canyon mining landscape, the McKittrick Canyon Archeological District, Military Encampment/Activity areas, and the Ship-On-the-Desert. Each of these potential landscapes needs to have an inventory accomplished and be evaluated for full inclusion on the CLI. The park intends to continue our in-house efforts but at some point and time will look for opportunities to work with cultural professionals outside of our sphere of influence.

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ENVIRONMENT

☒ Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

☒ Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

We will continue to foster an environmental ethic through our recycling program. We will increase our efforts to reduce our solid waste generation and remain as "green" as feasible. Efforts to seek out and utilize bio-friendly materials (us and our contractors) will remain high. Environmental leadership will be our mantra as we look to reduce the consumption of energy costs being driven by our travel and utility costs.

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ENVIRONMENT

☒ Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

☒ Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.

This area needs improvement and park wide focus.

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RECREATION

☒ Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

☒ Rehabilitate over 2,000 miles of trails within or connected to national parks, including trails accessible to those with disabilities.

Guadalupe will continue to maintain and rehabilitate the 80+ miles of trail currently in inventory and look for opportunities to improve and/or add trails for those with disabilities.

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RECREATION

☒ Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

☒ Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

For several years now, attendance at programs is dwindling. In light of the Centennial Initiative, we will focus efforts at evaluating existing programs for relevancy and explore options for new and invigorating programs.

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EDUCATION

☒ Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

In keeping with Core operations, we have recently combined resources management and interpretation. It is our goal to integrate these functions with the intent of enhancing our interpretative and educational programs with direct participation through resources management. We will ultimately reinvigorate our efforts and will focus on expanding our traditional delivery mechanisms.

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PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Be one of the top 10 places to work in America.

☒ Attain the highest employee satisfaction rate of all federal agencies, as measured by Office of Personnel Management surveys.

Creating and maintaining a "great" workplace will be a focus for many years. We will actively encourage supervisors, managers to analyze, and surveys for the appropriate answers to employee questions.

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Site: GUMO

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.

☒ Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.

Safety is, and will be, a continuous priority. The executive safety committee will remain engaged and focused on a vibrant work plan. A recognition and awards program will be developed and implemented.

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